

Still Buffering 192: How to Christmas Prince 3 (Live from Candles!)

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[theme music plays]

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: Hello! And welcome to *Still Buffering*, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages! I am Raleigh Smirl.

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: That's right.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl!

[audience cheers]

Taylor: I clapped for all of you too—

Raleigh: Y'all always do that, don't you? You all always go louder just to—just to get me! Just—it's fine!

Taylor: It's just the natural momentum of cheering.

Raleigh: Yeah, it's okay, it's okay, it's fine.

Sydnee: It was definitely biggest for Tey, though, so you can—

Raleigh: Yeah, I know. Definitely.

Taylor: I'm just the last one! That's fine.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know? It's fine. I get it.

Sydnee: Before we get started, I've been asked to—[holding back laughter] to please ask everyone in the balcony to not fall out of the balcony.

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Please.

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: If you could all... be buddies.

Raleigh: Just stay up there.

Sydnee: And don't fall out of the balcony, I would appreciate it.

Raleigh: Also, can I just say really quick, those carolers were all my friends I do theater with, and they're so amazing. They're so great.

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: We love those carolers, yeah!

Sydnee: That's good, but *serious* about the balcony!

Raleigh: But seriously, stay up there.

Sydnee: I am a doctor, but I—I can't fix *that*, guy—so just don't... fall, please. Thank you.

Taylor: I don't think our fans are a rowdy crew, but maybe likely to fall down?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, I am.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] That's fair.

Sydnee: Same!

Raleigh: I fall. So... it's fair.

Sydnee: Uh, so, you know, on *Still Buffering*, here, we usually talk about teen life, teen culture, and it's the holiday season, and so I thought before we launch into our topic, Raleigh, you could give us a teen holiday, like, shopping guide. Like, an update. What do the teens like? What are they... into—

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: —now?

Taylor: Space boots! I just made a guess.

Raleigh: Ummm...

Sydnee: What kind of music do they like? What are their... teen idols?

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: I mean, all I really asked for for the holidays for presents is, like, socks, and...

[scattered cheers]

Raleigh: ... maybe, like, some—some gift cards or some money for textbooks, you know, that kind of stuff?

[scattered laughs and cheers]

Sydnee: Oh—wait.

Raleigh: Some new underwear, maybe...

Sydnee: Well, but, like, surely some new, like... cool tech, or something, right?

Raleigh: Guys, I didn't, like—

Taylor: Hover boots! Boots of sphu—fuchu—future boots! Just boots. I don't know.

Raleigh: It used to be real easy for me to prep for these shows because it was just what I knew, but now it's like I have to do all this research. I don't feel in touch... anymore.

[audience laughs]

Taylor: That's our whole show!

Sydnee: Are—are you saying—

Raleigh: It's been—it's been a whole four years, guys! I didn't even think we'd make it this far!

[audience laughs]

Taylor: Wow!

Sydnee: So—but if you don't know the teen stuff... what—how do we do a show about teens now? If... you're almost not a teen!

Raleigh: I know!

Sydnee: You're gonna be 20 this year!

Raleigh: I know!

[scattered cheers]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: What do we do? I mean, we can't just keep recording podcasts about teen life if we don't—if we don't have a teen, if we don't have, like, teen—you know, what's up to date? What are they into? We gotta—we gotta have our fingers on the teen pulse! What are we—

Raleigh: I don't have a teen pulse anymore!

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Tey, what are we gonna do a show about?

Taylor: I don't know. It sounds like that's it. I... you know.

[audience laughs]

Taylor: Oops! Sorry.

Raleigh: Wow sorry guys, this is embarrassing!

Taylor: We should've thought this through!

Raleigh: I feel old.

Sydney: Do we just quit? Do we... give up?

Taylor: Well, that sounds like the option.

[scattered "no's"]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: That doesn't sound like what *they* want!

[pauses]

Audience: No!

Taylor: They're like, "Maybe!"

Sydney: I don't know... I mean, I guess—I guess we're just gonna have to keep... [sighs] goin' down to the studio and recording things, and trying to figure something out, and make some sort of show, and—but I don't know! We can't just keep... [stressing each word] going through the motions!

[audience cheers loudly]

[instrumental for "Going Through the Motions" plays]

Sydney: [singing] Every single week, the same arrangement—

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: [singing] I go down and set the mics.

Raleigh: [singing] As I head downstairs to my sister's basement, I can't help but think something isn't right.

Taylor: [singing] We've been making shows of teenage woes and high school highs and lows—

All Together: [singing] And we're sharing our emotions, bearing all our hearts.

Raleigh: [singing] Still, I'm not sure what will be my part! Tey is always cool, and Syd's the mom here, but I'm not sure what's my thing. As my birthday looms I can't help but fear, what else can I bring?

Sydnee and Taylor: [singing] We've been wondering.

Raleigh: You—you—

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: [singing] You could've said something...

Sydnee and Taylor: [singing] We all love her tales of teenage fails and tech beyond emails—

Taylor: [singing] But we're—

Sydnee and Taylor: [singing] —shaking at the notion of having to restart.

Raleigh: [singing] Still, I'm not sure what will be my part!

Taylor: [singing] Can our podcast last forever? Find a new hook that's as clever?

Raleigh: [singing] Maybe bad advice?

Sydnee: No, never!

[audience laughs]

All Together: [singing] [through laughter] What will be our thing? Sharing our emotions, ease our suffering. We just want a show about something we know, because we are still buffering!

[audience cheers loudly]

Raleigh: [sighs]

Taylor: What just happened?

Raleigh: I don't know.

[audience laughs]

Sydney: [snorts]

Raleigh: Did anyone else, like, break into song or anything?

Taylor: Jazz hands?

[scattered loud cheers]

Sydney: Could be a—a demon? [laughs quietly] A dancing demon?

Taylor: [laughs breathlessly] [singing] I've got a theory—[in her normal voice] We need a new show.

Sydney: No, we need a new—

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

Sydney: You know what, though? For now, uh, it's the holiday season. We could just talk about *The Christmas Prince* again, 'cause, you know, there was a—

[audience cheers]

Sydney: —[laughs quietly] there was a third one.

Raleigh: That always seems easy for us to do in the past two years.

Taylor: We got that, we got that.

Rileigh: I don't know of all the traditions we could've picked that this is the one that we should've gone with but we did it, so here we are!

Sydnee: Now, uh, I hope that you all have seen *The Christmas Prince 3*—

Rileigh: I don't.

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: Uh...

Rileigh: Does that mean you all *have*?!

[audience cheers]

Rileigh: That many people?! No...

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: We know our fans!

Rileigh: [simultaneously] [through laughter] You all have to have some better way to spend time, no!

Taylor: *Fifteen* of you?!

[scattered cheers]

Rileigh: I see too many hands.

Sydnee: If not, we're gonna spoil it now. And I do apologize.

Rileigh: So if anyone really doesn't want *The Christmas Prince 3* spoiled for you...

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: Go, and then—and then you can come back for *Wonderful!*.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Leave the theater. Leave.

Sydnee: But please don't leave!

Raleigh: But please don't! But if you're really that concerned.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Cover your ears.

Sydnee: Uh, so, yes, the—the *Christmas Prince* trilogy is finally complete.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Finally.

Sydnee: Uh, there's no way it ends, though, right?

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: Oh, no!

Sydnee: Of course Netflix is gonna make more of those.

Raleigh: A—a quadrilogy?

Sydnee: Obviously. If you haven't seen it, *Christmas Prince 1* is the story of an intrepid journalist—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [dramatically] Named Amber.

Sydnee: Who gets—who writes a blog called:

Raleigh: Amber's blog!

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: That's really what it's called, guys.

Sydnee: Who—who goes to check out Andovia, which is—

Taylor: Al—Aldovia!

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Aldovia.

Sydnee: —Aldovia!

Taylor: What are you, New York Nat?

Raleigh: [crosstalk] can't get a name right!

Sydnee: They're both not real. But—and of course she falls in love with the prince. And he falls in love back!

Raleigh: It is magical.

Sydnee: And then *Christmas Prince 2*—

Raleigh: They get married.

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, that's—you just cut right to it, there.

Raleigh: That's the whole, like—

Taylor: Well, that was it. That's—

Raleigh: —the whole movie is just, like, they get—that's the whole thing.

Sydnee: *Chris—Christmas Prince 3*, though...

Raleigh: They have a baby.

Sydnee: The royal baby, is about—yes, they are having a royal baby.

Raleigh: Having a baby.

Sydnee: But it's—it's also a mystery. [laughs]

Raleigh: Oooh! Any of you all seen *Knives Out*? It's basically *Knives Out*.

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: Right?

Taylor: Ehh...

Rileigh: Like, *Knives Out* is great. *Knives Out* is great, but *Christmas Prince 3* is basically—

Taylor: [simultaneously] It's very low stakes *Knives Out*.

Rileigh: —*Knives Out*, right?

Taylor: It's like a gentle spork. It's not that bad.

Rileigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: *Spoons Out!*

Sydnee: [through laughter] I love the comparison to *Knive*—yes, it's just like *Knives Out*. *Christmas Prince 3*. The mystery is just as well crafted. The social commentary is just as deep.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: You should see *Knives Out* though, it's much better.

Rileigh: It is much better.

[audience cheers]

Rileigh: Spend your time watching *Knives Out*, please.

Taylor: We're not gonna talk about that better movies, so, sorry.

Sydnee: In—in *Christmas Prince 3*—I just wanna start off by saying that of course Amber, our hero, uh, of the first two films—

Rileigh: Our journalist.

Sydnee: —yes.

Rileigh: Our..

Sydnee: Queen Amber.

Raleigh: ... Queen.

Taylor: Now Queen.

Raleigh: Amber.

Taylor: [through laughter] Queen Amber!

Sydnee: She is expecting a child, and she is the most nimble pregnant person I've ever seen.

Raleigh: Sydnee, out of the only one of the three of us that has ever been with child, do you have some thoughts about Amber's pregnancy?

Sydnee: Amber is supposed to be—like, for the majority of the film, like, a week away from having a baby.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And... she at one point, like, is sitting on the edge of, like, a balcony outside the castle?

Raleigh: That she climbed up there herself. There's no other way to get up there, y'all.

Sydnee: Casually just hopped up there with a box of donuts.

Raleigh: [mockingly] Because her cravings are so crazy.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, I would—maybe that's—maybe *I* did it wrong.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Twice?

Sydnee: Twice. I mean, the donuts—I did *that*. I did that very right.

Rileigh: I also appreciated that they were just the donuts from *The Simpsons*.
[laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: They were, they were giant, pink, frosted Simpsons donuts. Uh, so I did—I did constantly have a problem with, like, "That's not how... you would—no, you can't sit like that. No... why aren't you... [through laughter] more unhappy."

Rileigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And then her doctor, her royal doctor for her royal baby, tells her that, uh, "We're not gonna call 'em contractions. We're gonna call them *surges* of—"

Rileigh: "'Cause that'll make 'em less painful."

Sydnee: "—[holding back laughter] of joy and pleasure."

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: And love.

Taylor: I really wanted to ask your opinion on that. Hypno-pregnancy, was that what they called it?

Sydnee: Meh.

Taylor: So you just change the words to more positive words. So, not contractions, *surges*. And then the pain goes away!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. We—we don't use profanity on this show, so...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... I won't—I won't comment on that any further.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But the mystery! Yes, the royal baby is the title, but the mystery is the heart of this fine... Christmas film.

Rileigh: Everyone kinda—yeah. Everyone kinda forgets about the baby about 20 minutes in. It's like, "Yeah, she's pregnant, but that's not what this is about! This is *Sporks Out*."

Sydnee: Yes.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: *Sporks Out*, because it is treaty time. Uh, the honorary treaty between... Al—Aldov—Aldovia—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Aldovia.

Sydnee: —Aldovia—

Taylor: And penguins!

Rileigh: Penguins. Is called Penglia. The nation is Penglia.

Sydnee: Which does sound like you're mispronouncing "penguins" the entire—

Rileigh: Which does sound like you just can't say the word "penguins."

Sydnee: Penglians.

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: That's like how Charlie or Cooper says "penguins."

Sydnee: [through laughter] I know.

Rileigh: "The Penglians!"

Sydnee: "I love the Penglians." Uh, these two—these two nations sign a treaty every 100 years to keep them out of war.

Raleigh: [through laughter] And if they don't sign—and it's on Christmas Eve! And if they don't sign it before midnight on Christmas Eve every hundred years, then they are automatically at war. But neither of them have armies!

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: And they say this!

Taylor: But their—their lawyers will have a bad day!

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: And it is set in 2019 so it's like—the whole time you're thinking, like, "Well, just don't... be at war."

Raleigh: And, like, the two—the two kings of each nation are there with each other. Like, just say you're cool and it's fine!

Sydnee: Just be like, "New treaty today!"

Raleigh: I've only been—

Sydnee: "Could we put it on the computer, maybe, this time?"

Raleigh: Yeah! I've only been a political science student for about, like, four months now, but I'm pretty sure that's not how things work! Right?!

Sydnee: So—so there's the treaty, [holding back laughter] is the object of desire for everyone. This beautiful trea—it *is*—it's a beautiful treaty. It's 600 years old and there's, like, a new page for every hundred years.

Raleigh: And they, like, sew them together, even though this book—it's only supposed to be 600 years, [through laughter] but it has about 20 pages.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: And then, of course, as they go through the ceremony, they're gonna sign the treaty and everybody's very, I guess, excited... about that.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, about the not war thing. That's exciting.

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: That's good.

Sydnee: That's good.

Raleigh: I don't know who would be at war, exactly. There's no army, so...

Sydnee: Anyway, they're all—

Raleigh: Everyone?

Sydnee: —they're all so excited to sign the treaty, and then they open the box and [gasps loudly]—

Raleigh: Dun dun dun.

Sydnee: —treaty is gone.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Right?

Sydnee: It's been stolen.

Raleigh: You could never guess it.

Taylor: You—you skipped over my favorite part, though. And that's when they introduce the Penglian royal family. The King? He's handsome, that's fine. The Queen gets out of the car and there's this zoom in and it's just like, there might be two Queens here, but there's only one *Queen*.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: It's like a slow-motion hair flip with a smile [crosstalk]—

Taylor: Oh, Queen Ming is—is the boss of the entire movie. I just want a spin off. Just show me her, like, Queen Ming.

Raleigh: Just Queen Ming.

Taylor: Just that.

Sydnee: In charge, yeah. She does—it's everything from, like, the 80's slow-mo shot, except for, like, the sunglasses, like, "[deep voice] Ohh, yeahhh."

[audience laughs]

Taylor: Chika chika.

Sydnee: Like, everything—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] They want everyone to know, and we know!

Sydnee: So, the treaty is stolen, and Amber, at this point—yes, she is a Queen, but now it is time for Amber the investigative journalist.

Raleigh: Hello, and welcome to the ad break [holding back laughter] of this live Candlenights special! I hope you all are enjoying this episode. It was a lot of fun to do. For those of you who were there, if you're re-listening, welcome. I am assuming most of you weren't there, and in that case, I hope you're enjoying hearing it for the first time.

Um, I'm gonna interrupt for just a few minutes to talk to you about some of our sponsors this week, this very special time of year. And the first of those it ModCloth. We've told you about ModCloth so many times before, and we never get tired of talking about them, because ModCloth is one of all three of our favorite places to get clothing and accessories, and anything we need to get us ready for holiday parties. Um, you know, they have all those perfect, party-perfect looks for every event, not just holiday parties. Even if you just wanna stay inside and wear a really, really cute outfit, ModCloth has you covered for that, too.

From velvet to tulle, you'll find the dress of your dreams. *And*, they have a ModCloth gift guide if you aren't sure what to give all those people in your life this holiday season. They believe fashion should celebrate all people, too, and that's why they include a size range from 00 all the way to 28, so they are not an exclusive place. They are there for all of you. All of us. ModCloth.

And, if you have a question about their fit, their team of Mod stylists can hook you up with complimentary sizing and styling help, which I know for me—I online shop a lot, and needing to know how certain sizes fit and how certain dresses run is always important information to have, and what things would look good together, and ModCloth has you covered on all that. If you're sittin' at home alone doin' some online shopping it's like you have your own little virtual assistant right there, uh, in the form of a Mod stylist.

And we have a deal for you that's only valid for a limited time! So go check it out right now. You can get 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more if you go to modcloth.com and enter the code "buffering" at checkout. That's M-O-D-C-L-O-T-H.com and enter the code "buffering" at checkout. That's 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more at modcloth.com with code "buffering," only for a limited time.

There's another sponsor I wanna tell you about. I know it seemed like I was done. I'm not.

It's Native. We've talked to you about Native before. We're gonna talk to you about Native again, because we're loyal here at *Still Buffering*, and we love telling you about our favorite products.

Native creates safe, simple, effective products that people use in the bathroom every day! They create trusted products with—[holding back laughter] they create products with trusted ingredients—although they are trusted products—and trusted performance. And they have over 8000 five star reviews from their customers. If you're still not convinced by *my* five star review... [through laughter] there are 8000 others that you can go check out.

Um, people love Native Deodorant! It's a great deodorant. They smell great, first of all. But their formula contains simple ingredients that you understand, so you know everything that's in your deodorant. You know everything that's goin' on up in your deodorant-wearing areas. For me, that's my pits. Sydnee likes to call it something else, some medical term, 'cause she doesn't like the word "pits." But

you know what? I'm the one doing the ad break this week, so I get to call 'em whatever I want.

Um, they come in a wide variety of enticing scents, too, for men and women. Plus limited edition seasonal scents, and there's an unscented formula and baking soda-free formula for those with sensitivities, or if you just want, you know, non-scented pits, they have a non-scented formula, although I do enjoy the coconut vanilla *very* much. It is a very good scent to have goin' on up there all the time.

So, if you want 20% off your first purchase, visit nativedeodorant.com and use the promo code "buffering" during checkout. That's 20% off your first purchase. Nativedeodorant.com, use the promo code "buffering." Go check that out.

Okay, I promise I'm almost done. I just have one more thing I wanna tell you about, because this is the last time you're gonna hear from us until the new decade, so I gotta get it all in as fast as I can!

Um, and the other company I wanna tell you about this week is Zola. Zola makes wedding planning easier and less stressful with wedding websites, registry, invites, and a guest list manager all in one place.

You can create a gorgeous website in any style, and guests can RSVP and shop your registry right from the site! They—it's not only their registry, it's the highest rated registry of all time! You can't even beat that! The highest rated registry ever!

You can register for gifts, experiences, honeymoon funds, and returns and exchanges are free and easy, so you don't even have to worry about it. It's all built in right there at Zola.

They also offer beautiful, affordable invites and paper, and they'll help you collect addresses and track RSVPs online! They're literally gonna help you take care of everything, from save-the-dates to invites and thank-yous, all designed to match your wedding website, and they're customizable. *And* they'll address your envelopes for free. All those little time-consuming tasks that are associated with wedding planning, I assume? I don't know, I've never been married. I've only been to, like, one wedding. But they have you covered on all of 'em.

So, Zola has helped one million couples get married, and they can help you too. If you wanna check out Zola on us, you can sign up at zola.com/stillbuffering today

to get your free personalized paper sample. Use code "save50" to get 50% off your save-the-dates, too.

That's zola.com, Z-O-L-A, stillbuffering, and promo code "save50." Remember, you can get a free personalized paper sample and 50% off your save-the-dates. Zola.com/stillbuffering, promo code "save50."

Okay, that's all the talking I'm gonna do. This is Raleigh of the future... based on, you know, what you're listening to right now, but also Raleigh of the past, because when you listen to this, I've done this in the past.

Anyway, it's multi-dimensional Raleigh wishing you a great holiday season, thanking all of you who were at Candlesnights this year. It was a really special day, and even if you weren't there., I hope this makes you feel like you *were* there, because this is, to date, my favorite episode of *Still Buffering* we've ever done, and we'll see you in the new decade with, uh, hopefully a rebooted, new version of the show. But, still with the three of us, still called *Still Buffering*, and still every week here at Maximum Fun.

So, I hope you all have a great holiday season, and enjoy the rest of the Candlesnights episode. I'll see you in 2020!

Taylor: Which—

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] To arrive.

Raleigh: I just wanna say... I don't know if Amber knows the difference between a detective and an investigative journalist.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Because her blog thus far, in all three movies, has been about her quirky life as a normal girl from New York who becomes a Queen, but now she's like, "[serious tone] I am going to solve this mystery that has been around for *centuries...*"

Sydnee: And she immediately clicks into investigative journalist mode and says, "Okay. We have to start thinking like journalists. [holding back laughter] Make a list of suspects."

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: She says—and this isn't a direct quote, but it's about as close as we're gonna get for having to have watched this movie—she says, "Investigative journalism 101: the treaty couldn't have stolen itself!"

[audience laughs loudly]

Rileigh: [through laughter] Yeah! That's pretty smart, Queen Amber!

Sydnee: Was that a test question?

Rileigh: [through laughter] I was a journalism student for a year. I took many 101 classes. I don't remember learning about treaties! Stealing themselves, or making lists of suspects?! Why doesn't she just know, like, AP style?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: And we have—we have—[laughs] we have all of our suspects. We have all of our quirky character suspects that they have assembled in the room to, like—like, have the shot on each face so that you can see the reaction and try to guess—

Rileigh: [chanting] Who could it be?

Sydnee: [chanting] Who done it? Who done it?

Rileigh: Because they're all snowed in, so it had to have been someone in the palace, of course. It's Christmas!

Sydnee: Yeah—yes. They're snowed in.

Rileigh: Aldovia has horrible winters.

Sydnee: And no infrastructure.

Rileigh: [laughs] Anywhere.

Taylor: They get around largely by sleigh? Like, is that—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —like, a lot of, like—you're—you're the royal family. That seems not safe.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Lots of ice skating, too.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, so they start going through all the suspects, 'cause you've got the cousin from the first two films, Simon—

Taylor: [holding back laughter] Loki.

Rileigh: Who, like, tried to take down the entire economic system in the second movie? But now we're cool!

Sydnee: Yeah. He tried to overthrow the government.

[audience laughs]

Taylor: That—see, Simon is my proof that this is just Thor and Loki fanfiction, just blown up!

[audience laughs]

Taylor: There's, like, the one prince that's like, "I'm a little irresponsible, but I'm lovable!"

And then there's the other one that's like, "[deep voice] I'm dark and mysterious, and I like to cause problems."

And then—so then there's, like, the one girl that's, like, in love with... Loki—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Melissa, uh-huh.

Taylor: —uh, his name doesn't matter—Loki—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —Melissa—Melissa wrote this story. This is Melissa's self-insertion fanfiction, and I'm living for you, Melissa. Good choices, but that's what it is. It's—it's Thor and Loki.

Rileigh: I really like that dark mysterious voice you did when you were talking about Loki.

Taylor: [deep voice] Thank you.

Rileigh: Can you do the whole show that way, please?

Taylor: [deep voice] Sure, no problem.

Rileigh: Okay, good. [laughs]

Sydnee: So we've got—

Taylor: [deep voice] Actually, no, I can't.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] We've got Simon—Simon, who's a suspect, of course, because he's been the bad guy in, like, the other movies, so... this is obvious.

Rileigh: It's Netflix.

Sydnee: Uh, we have, like, the designer who's there for, like, the baby shower? [holding back laughter] To design the baby shower?

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: Of course.

Sydnee: It's like—it's like a—it's like two guys who are, like, the party planners, and they talk early in the film about how tacky the treaty is. So they're suspected of stealing it!

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: Because it's not *pretty*.

Sydnee: Because it's tacky. Motive I think is questionable.

Taylor: Uhhh...

Rileigh: Can we also just go backward—like, maybe go forward, I guess—See, he was supposed to be this great designer, the treaty's too tacky, all that stuff, royal family—the decorations he picks for their baby shower...?

Sydnee: Aw, you're gonna throw some shade now, huh?

Taylor: You didn't like those?!

Rileigh: He picks, like, Mylar balloons that spell out the word "Baby."

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: And I'm not exaggerating. Like, that's what he *has*! Like, can he—he made *four* cupcakes. There are *four* cupcakes there. He has nothin' to say about that treaty. As Queen Amber says, "It is a—an ancient piece of art."

Sydnee: Yes. Keeping them—these two countries off the brink of war.

Rileigh: Yes. With their extensive armies.

Sydnee: So we've established that all these people are suspects, along with Lin, who is the attache to the King and Queen of Penglia, and who—it is established very quickly, by the way, the King's just like, "I dunno, Lin runs everything. I'm just King."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's like... yeah, we—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] I do enjoy that.

Sydnee: —we know that's how the world works, King of Penglia. Could you not remind us in the Netflix Christmas movie?

Raleigh: Please.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I come here to escape those thoughts, please don't remind me.

Sydnee: We understand that the Lins of the world are doing all the work, and that kings are not.

Raleigh: Which I'm realizing as we talk about this, there are far too many plot lines in this movie.

Taylor: There are a lot!

Raleigh: Because Lin was—used to date Simon when they were at Oxford, but they only went on a few dates, but also they're still, like, flirting, and Melissa's very jealous, and no one knows Melissa and Simon were dating, but also they're in love... like, Melissa's been living in New York with New York dad. We haven't talked about New York dad yet.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] They like to establish frequently that Amber's from New York by her Skyping with her dad, who is New York personified.

Raleigh: As a person.

[audience laughs]

Taylor: Hey!

Sydnee: As the only New Yorker on this stage, Taylor, could you give us a taste of the dad's accent, please?

Taylor: No! [through laughter] 'Cause nobody talks like that!

Raleigh: Like New York—

Taylor: [crosstalk] "[exaggerated New York accent] Eh, eh, eh. Bagel, Midtown, tunnel, ehh, right? I'm walkin' here! Eh, eh, I'm walkin' here! Bagel!" Like, that's the—[laughs]

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: Now I don't know what—what—

Sydney: That's it. I mean, that's really his whole character.

Raleigh: I don't know what facade you're trying to put on for these people, but that's how *you* talk whenever we're all in New York. [laughs]

Taylor: You—you know what? That's not true, but okay.

Raleigh: [laughs] That's how everyone in New York talks.

Sydney: You can't even *begin* to order pizza around this one—

Taylor: Can I get a slice?

Sydney: —'cause she's gotta tell you about pizza! [laughs quietly] That's not true.

Raleigh: It's not true.

Taylor: I can't eat cheese!

Raleigh: She's vegan.

[audience laughs]

Sydney: [laughs]

Taylor: I'm the worst New Yorker!

Raleigh: That wasn't—

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: —supposed to be a joke, but you all laughed.

Taylor: A lot of carbs make me sleepy!

Raleigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: So... so the game is afoot, and—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Is it?

Sydnee: And Amber's gonna crack the case. Um, if she—

Raleigh: *Queen Amber, of Amber's Blog.*

Sydnee: —[sarcastically] if she doesn't go into labor first! It's so wacky! Uh—

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: And they're all snowed in, and, like, the—the greatest part about all this is that if you really think about it, the kings of these two countries that are now about to go to war if they don't find this treaty and sign it... or another one, but that can't happen, it has to be this one—they're just totally not worried the entire film. They're, like—they're, like, the only two who are with the audience going, "[quietly] This isn't... real. Like..."

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Oh, no, no, no. You missed the best part!

Taylor: The—[dramatically] the curse.

Raleigh: The curse!

Taylor: There's a curse in this treaty!

Raleigh: There is a curse! If you don't sign the treaty by midnight on Christmas Eve, not only do the countries go to war, but the firstborn child of the King and Queen of the nation who di—missed the trea—I don't know—[loudly] is cuuursed!

Taylor: And I like how seriously this curse is taken! Like, everybody—these are the heads of these countries and they're, "Well, a curse, though. We can't really look past that. We gotta—"

Raleigh: This is—

Taylor: "—your baby's gonna be cursed."

Sydnee: "You don't wanna be playing around with a curse."

Raleigh: It is set in the year 2019, and Queen Amber is like, "[gasps] My baby!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: "Going to be cursed! That's *my* baby!"

Taylor: Like, the elder Queen—I don't know—'cause there's a Queen, but then there's an old lady Queen?

Raleigh: There's two Queens? I don't know.

Taylor: Old lady Queen, she's like, "Well—"

Sydnee: Two Queens and a King.

Taylor: But she says, "No, no, no. Sorcery fell out of fashion long ago." Like *that* excuses it. Like, "[posh voice] It's just not *fashionable* any more to be *cursed!*" Like—

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Cool.

Raleigh: [through laughter] My favorite is when they announce that the baby's gonna be cursed.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Emily, who should be the Queen—I think we've mentioned this the past two times we talked about this—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Yes.

Rileigh: —the King's younger sister—

Sydnee: Yes, the sister of King, yeah.

Rileigh: —she is supposed—like, in every other film she's been the smartest one here. And she's like, what, 13?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: They zoom in on her face real close up when they say the baby's going to be cursed, and she's like, "[loudly] A curse?! Whaaat?!" And they all take it this seriously, and it is set in the year 2019!

Sydnee: And the rest of the film has Amber holding her stomach like this—like you do when you're—when you're pregnant. You just cup your stomach in a circle and go—

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: —"[dramatically] My baby! A curse!"

Rileigh: "[dramatically] A curse!"

Sydnee: "[dramatically] My baby! A curse!"

Rileigh: "[dramatically] Beshrewed, [through laughter] oh no!"

Sydnee: Uh, so they've gotta find this treaty. They—and—and at this point, the movie, I feel like, accelerates. Like, tumbles to the ending? Like, falls down the stairs—

Taylor: Oh, a *lot* happens.

Sydnee: —to the ending of the plot. Because—

Rileigh: They realized they had already written, like, 90 minutes of this movie, and that was already, like, 89 too many—

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: —so they were just like, "Alright, we gotta wrap this up real quick. We can't introduce any more plot lines. We already have 12 we gotta tie up."

Sydnee: And they're—they're—you know in the writer room they're like, "But who did it? Like, we still don't—we didn't figure that out. Who did it?"

And they're like, "[holding back laughter] Hey, you know that one butler who announces everyone when they walk in the room throughout the entire—"

Rileigh: Who's been in about two scenes.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: "—How 'bout him?"

Rileigh: It's him.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: "Is that something? Does this—"

Audience Member: [loudly] No!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: It's *not* something! You're right!

Sydnee: "Is this something—"

Rileigh: It's not anything! It's nothing!

Taylor: Am I the only one that was like, "Man, I feel really bad for this butler!" 'Cause, like, he's nice to everybody in the whole film, he has a very touching

moment, with, like, the—the—the daughter, and then, like, when he—when he's arrested he's like, "Yeah, I swore a blood oath to my family, because, like—"

[audience laughs]

Taylor: "—this was the one thing—"

Sydney: [yells] A blood oath!

Riley: [yells] A blood oath!

Taylor: "—I had—my whole life has been about this, *but* if I'd known a *curse* would befall the baby, I wouldn't have done it." Because we're just living in a universe where this is a possibility.

Like—and then they—like, the last shot in the movie is this dude in jail! Like, "Ha ha ha, Merry Christmas! Here's a guy in orange—[laughs]"

[audience laughs]

Riley: That's really how it ends.

Sydney: We had to jail the butler for stealing a treaty, hiding it in the dungeon of the castle with, like—leaving a set of clues behind so that—I mean, they easily find it.

Riley: Yeah.

Sydney: The Queen and the princess are stuck in the dungeon for about 30 seconds—

[audience laughs]

Riley: Maybe less.

Sydney: —when they find it, [through laughter] and they think they're in a ghost trap.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Too many plots! [through laughter] They think a ghost trapped them, but it wasn't a ghost. 'Cause there aren't ghosts. But—

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: No ghosts in *this* movie! Wait til the fourth one!

Taylor: [ghost noise] Have you gone to the bathrooms upstairs?

Rileigh: Oh, this place? *Big* haunted, but that's for another one.

Taylor: Yeah, make the ghosts mad now, Syd. We have to be here *all night*.

Rileigh: There are tunnels under here, guys. It's real haunted!

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: Just watch the historic plumbing, please. [laughs quietly] Uh—

Rileigh: But they sent out a dog, who's a tr—

Taylor: Oh, oh—

Rileigh: —a treaty sniffing dog!

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: [through laughter] To find the treaty!

Taylor: Now, look. I—I had the same, like, moment of, like, "That—there's—that makes no sense." And then I was like, "I'm gonna look it up. Can—can dog smell out ancient artifacts?"

Rileigh: [high pitched] Sniff for treaties?!

Taylor: I won—but, you know, like, dogs can scent things. You can give a dog a smell and they can find that smell. But that assumes you have a sample of the ancient treaty, which—

Rileigh: Which is missing! We have established this!

Taylor: [through laughter] —you saved in case you needed to let a dog find it!

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] So, thank goodness, they find the treaty in the dungeon. They learn there was a blood oath. [snorts]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] And that the butler—

Taylor: Which is still inexcusable.

Sydnee: —was gaining—gaining vengeance for a crime that maybe never happened.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Again, it's all gets really fuzzy pretty quickly at the end.

Taylor: There's a lot of fluff, yeah.

Sydnee: He gets arrested. He spends the holidays in jail for [snorts] temporarily stealing something, maybe. And, uh—

Taylor: Loki was being sneaky, only because he was gonna propose to Melissa—

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: —'cause that's what this fanfic is about: Melissa marries Loki. [high pitched noise]

Raleigh: And also, this movie exists over the time span of, I think, four days? No one knew they were dating at the beginning of this time period, and by the end, they're engaged!

Sydnee: Yeah, they're defo engaged. Like, they get engaged in the room where Queen Amber is actively—

Raleigh: Going into labor.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: —like, laboring.

[laughter continues]

Raleigh: She has... *one* cramp—

Sydnee: She's, like, two seconds from birth and they're like, "It's time... to sign the treaty, so that you can give birth. But first—"

Raleigh: "In the bed you're going to give birth in."

Sydnee: "But first, I've gotta propose. Good, that's done. Now we have to sign the treaty." And she's like, "This is fine. I'm fine with this."

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: "I'm just having... surges. [laughs quietly] Every, like, minute—"

Raleigh: It's love and pain and pleasure—

Sydnee: "—and I am so fine with *all of you in my room.*" [laughs]

Taylor: Is that—Syd, is that what labor is like?

Sydnee: [loudly] No!

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: But it's great, 'cause it's really a tale about feminism, because—

Taylor: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: The Queens—no, listen! The Queens got to sign the treaty, *and* the kings. Eh? Ooh?

Sydnee: [through laughter] This time, the Queens get to sign the treaty, too. And she signs it, "Amber."

[audience laughs loudly]

Rileigh: This is—if you never watch—

Sydnee: Just Amber!

Rileigh: —if you never watch this movie, and I hope you never do—but go to this scene and watch her signature, because it's just very shaky, all uppercase letters, "[loudly] Amber."

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: That's it. [laughs] In history.

Sydnee: But of course, thank goodness, the baby is born and she's... great.

Rileigh: On Christmas Day, of course.

Sydnee: The baby's great, and the Queen is great, and the royal family's all outside in, like, zero degree weather, holding their one-day-old the next day—

Rileigh: Who is huge, by the way.

Sydnee: —looking—who—yes. [laughs]

Taylor: Big baby.

Sydnee: Who's huge. Looking great, which is *not* unbelievable, because we've all seen the royal family do this. They do it that way. They just look great the day after they give birth. And—and, you know, it's a happy ending. So certainly there could be no more of these films, right?

Rileigh: Oh—

Taylor: But, if there were, where do we hope it goes?

Sydnee: Uh, Melissa? Can we follow that—I mean, is that the next one?

Rileigh: Just "Melissa?"

Taylor: I'll take that.

Raleigh: Okay, that's fine.

Sydnee: Yeah, let's follow—

Raleigh: Melissa and Simon. Sure, sure.

Sydnee: —Melissa and Simon on their journey to—

Raleigh: But mainly Melissa.

Sydnee: —royal love.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Or maybe we go to Penglia!

Taylor: I would be down for some more Queen Ming content, for me, for reasons.

Raleigh: I would be down for more Queen Ming.

Sydnee: We'll go check out the Penglians.

[scattered cheers]

Taylor: You—[laughs quietly] she, like—but I really like—you know, the Queens in this movie—like, the elder Queen, whatever that is, she, like, picks a lock. Like, all of the Queens can—are master archers, because for whatever reason—like, they're really great—like, they're talented ladies! I just wanna give them a shout out, yeah.

Raleigh: They do all the work, yeah.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] I told you, it's a tale of feminism.

Raleigh: [snorts] [sarcastically] Truly. Thank you, Netflix.

Taylor: That's what I'm trying to say!

Sydnee: For our times.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh—so, you know, this went—this went well.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: I don't think we can always talk about Christmas Prince, though.

Taylor: That's—we can't do that for the podcast forever? You just want—

Sydnee: No...

Taylor: —no? Okay.

Sydnee: But I do think—I do think that, like, pieces of, uh—of culture that are meaningful—

Raleigh: And media, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: —to young people is a great direction for this show to go.

Raleigh: You know, I do too.

Sydnee: You know? TV shows, music, movies—

Raleigh: Poems.

Sydnee: —so we're like a show and tell.

Raleigh: Movies. Yeah.

Sydnee: I'll bring you a thing and show you and tell you about this thing that's meaningful to me in my... young... life. [snorts]

Raleigh: As I end my teen life—

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: —and am rebirthed into my 20-life.

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: Also—

Raleigh: I still got eight months. I'm still very much 19.

Sydnee: —also, we will *never* run out of topics. Which is—

Raleigh: That's the thing. Old show? Real hard to find more topics. This one? Hmm? Always topics. Christmas Prince?

Sydnee: Alright, good.

Raleigh: So this is what we—

Sydnee: Well, we got that sorted.

Raleigh: —this is what we're doing now?

Sydnee: Yeah. This is what we're doing.

Taylor: So we just figured this out onstage.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Well, first we're gonna end this—

Raleigh: Well, first we're gonna end this one.

Sydnee: —we're gonna end this show right now.

Raleigh: But in 2020... we have a new show.

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: It's still called *Still Buffering*. I wanted to make this clear, because—

Sydnee: It's like the college years.

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, I've already been in college for a year and a half, but I wanted to make this distinction clear so everyone knew this was not just a bit.

[through laughter] This is a thing we're doing. [laughs] We're actually gonna do this.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: We will seek to be much less problematic than *Saved By the Bell: the College Years*.

Taylor: That's—that's was my first thought, like—

Sydnee: Or *Saved By the Bell*, or—

Taylor: —ooh...

Sydnee: —any *Saved By the Bell*-related products.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Thank you all. Thank you for being here.

Raleigh: Yeah, thank you all.

Sydnee: Thank you for coming to Candlenights.

[audience cheers loudly]

Raleigh: Uh, and also, um, these stars up here—I don't know if you all can see these on this net back here—those are the stars from Candlenights Stars, which is my third year doing now, and I'm so—thank you all so much!

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: That money—I think we're almost at, like, \$15,000 now—is going to Contact, which is a sexual assault crisis center here in Huntington, and it's so great, and I've been working with them there for so long, and they're such great people. Some of them are here. I don't know where they are, but—

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: —they're—yeah. They're amazing, and thank you all so much for giving back to our hometown.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: And something that means a lot to me.

Sydnee: Thank you all, and thank you all for being here to raise money for Harmony House.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Woo!

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: I know we have a bunch of people from Harmony House over here.

Raleigh: Yeah, they're right there, I see them! Yeah!

Sydnee: They're a wonderful organization in our community that I have been very lucky to start working with recently, and I just—I can't tell you how much good they're doing for people facing homelessness in our city and within our community. They're just—they're wonderful people who give their time and their efforts to take care of all of our citizens and all of our family and friends, and we love 'em, so—

Raleigh: And that's what Candenights is really about.

Sydnee: —so, thank you.

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: Yes. And *Wonderful!* is up next!

Raleigh: Yeah!

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: So, do I do the—do I do the thing now?

Taylor: Do the thing, yeah, do the thing.

Rileigh: This has been *Still Buffering*, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages.
I am Rileigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am a teenager... for now...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Sydnee and Taylor: And I... was... too.

[audience cheers]

Taylor: I—I don't think that'll change.

[cheering continues]

[theme music plays]

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